

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 17, 1988

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-16-88

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ALIEN VERIFICATION FOR ENTITLEMENTS (SAVE)

REFERENCE:

I. BACKGROUND

Section 121 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA P.L. 99-603) mandates that all applicants for public assistance declare in writing, under penalty of perjury, that they have "satisfactory immigration status (SIS)" which does not make the individual ineligible for benefits under the applicable public (or medical assistance) program. It requires that State AFDC, Food Stamp and Medicaid agencies verify an alien's immigration status through an automated or other system as designated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). IRCA-86 mandates that this system be implemented nationwide by October 1, 1988.

The INS has designated the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) as the system through which immigration status will be verified. The SAVE Program is an intergovernmental information sharing program designed to aid eligibility workers in determining an alien's immigration status prior to the granting of federally subsidized benefits. There are two verification methods: primary and secondary, which are available through SAVE. Primary verification is the automated method of verifying an alien's immigration status through SAVE. It provides an immediate response to the user indicating that either the alien is in satisfactory immigration status and thus eligible for benefits, or that secondary verification is needed. Primary verification is required for all aliens seeking benefits. Secondary verification is a manual

verification process involving the copying of documents for submission to INS. It is required whenever discrepancies are identified between an alien's documents and the information received from the primary check. It is also required, when the primary verification response specifies "Institute Secondary Verification".

II. DEVELOPMENT/IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVE PROGRAM

In order to develop and implement primary verification via the SAVE process, a task force has been established which includes staff from the Department of Health Services, Department of Social Services, and County Welfare Departments. As present, the counties participating in the task force are: San Diego, Los Angeles, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Glenn. The task force is responsible for: 1) analyzing the various options available to perform the alien verification process; 2) identifying the impact on state and county operations; 3) identifying the costs associated with each option; 4) recommending an alternative; and 5) implementing the selected alternative.

In addition to the state/county task force, a state management/county advisory group has been established. Results of the work performed by the state/county task force are reviewed by the state management/county advisory group. The management/advisory group reports progress on the SAVE development/implementation plans to Mr. John Oppenheim, Assistant Director of Finance and Administration for the Santa Clara Department of Social Services. Mr. Oppenheim is the County Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) representative assigned to the State Health and Welfare Agency task force for IRCA/OBRA implementation. As major milestones are reached in the development process, briefings will be made to the various CWDA Committees.

DHS and DSS welcome participation and/or suggestions for counties on the SAVE task force. Any county wishing to send a representative to future meetings should contact Maureen McCreary, State Department of Health Services, at (916) 322-4890.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact
Michael F. Back, State Department of Social Services at
(916) 445-0031 or Sandra Duveneck, State Department of Health
Services at (916) 324-4951.



ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director
Welfare Program Division
Department of Social Services



FRANK S. MARTUCCI, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch
Department of Health Services

cc: CWDA